

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-35 are pending in the present application, claim 10 having been cancelled herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 19, 24, 29, 31 and 33-35 were objected to due to a number of listed informalities. Applicants have submitted amendment to correct the informalities and withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 28-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Barton (WO005/59223) in view of Vogl (U.S. Patent No. 6,959,327). Claims 2, 5, 9, 16-21 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Barton in view of Call (U.S. Patent No. 7,069,588). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Barton in view of Call, and further in view of Goss (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,653). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Barton in view of Vogl and further in view of Call.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 6, 11-15, 22-23 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 10. Applicant notes that the patent to Call has an

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application date of August 29, 2001, which is after Applicants' convention priority date of February 27, 2001. Applicants submit herewith a certified translation of Applicants' priority document. Applicants submit that Applicants' claims are fully supported by this priority document and withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the claims from which it depends, as has claim 26. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate at least some of the recitations of claim 10, and claim 31, 33, 34 and 35 have also been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 10. In view of the overcoming of the rejection of claim 10 in view of the Call patent, by submission of the attached certified priority document, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-9 and 11-35 are patentable over the prior art of record.

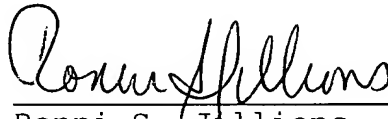
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to
contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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